

Mircea Trandafir

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Rockwool Foundation Research Unit
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Current Employment and Affiliations

- 2022– Senior Researcher, Rockwool Foundation Research Unit.
2014– Research Fellow, Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA).

Education

- 2009 PhD in Economics, University of Maryland, College Park.
2002 MA in Economics, Central European University, Budapest (Hungary).
2000 BA in Finance and Banking, Academy of Economic Studies, Bucharest (Romania).

Previous Employment and Affiliations

- 2015–2022 Associate Professor, Dept. of Business and Economics, Univ. of Southern Denmark.
2013–2015 Assistant Professor, Dept. of Business and Economics, Univ. of Southern Denmark.
2009–2013 Assistant Professor, Dept. of Economics, Université de Sherbrooke.
2008–2009 Consultant, Development Research Group, The World Bank.

Research Interests

- Health Economics, Labor Economics, Applied Microeconometrics.

Publications

- 2025 “Do medical treatments work for work? Evidence from breast cancer patients” (with N. Meltem Daysal, William N. Evans, and Mikkel H. Pedersen), *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy* 17(4): 379–409.
2022 “Spillover effects of early-life medical interventions” (with N. Meltem Daysal, Marianne Simonsen, and Sanni Breining), *Review of Economics and Statistics* 104(1): 1–16.
2019 “Low-risk isn’t no-risk: Perinatal treatments and the health of low-income newborns” (with N. Meltem Daysal and Reyn van Ewijk), *Journal of Health Economics* 64: 55–67.
2015 “Quality of higher education and the labor market in developing countries: Evidence from an education reform in Senegal” (with Dorothée Boccanfuso and Alexandre Larouche), *World Development* 74: 412–424.

- “Saving lives at birth: The impact of home births on infant outcomes” (with N. Meltem Daysal and Reyn van Ewijk), *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* 7(3): 28–50.
- “Legal recognition of same-sex couples and family formation,” *Demography* 52(1): 113–151.
- 2014 “The effect of same-sex marriage laws on different-sex marriage: Evidence from the Netherlands,” *Demography* 51(1): 317–340. Winner of the 2008 Award for the Best Comparative Article Presented at an APPAM Research Conference.

Working Papers

- 2026/01 “Postpartum depression and the motherhood penalty” (with Sonia Bhalotra, N. Meltem Daysal, Louis Fréget, Jonas Cuzulan Hirani, Priyama Majumdar, Miriam Wüst, and Tom Zohar). **Submitted**.
- 2025/07 “Antidepressant Treatment in Childhood” (with Sonia Bhalotra and N. Meltem Daysal). **Submitted**. An earlier version circulated under the title “Teen antidepressant use and academic achievement.”
- 2025/01 “Employee health and firm performance” (with Daniel A. Rettl and Alexander Schandlbauer). **Revisions requested by Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis**. An earlier version is available as IZA Discussion Paper No. 15147.
- 2024/01 “An economic approach to machine learning in health policy” (with N. Meltem Daysal, Sendhil Mullainathan, Ziad Obermeyer, and Suproteem K. Sarkar). Currently revising.
- 2021/10 “The effects of education policy on teen pregnancy” (with Dieudonné Tamfutu Munsi).
- 2021/10 “Language of instruction and educational outcomes: Evidence from an education policy in Rwanda” (with Dieudonné Tamfutu Munsi).
- 2021/10 “Education policies and the intergenerational transmission of health: Evidence from Rwanda” (with Dieudonné Tamfutu Munsi).

Work in Progress

- “GPs and inequality in health” (with Janet Currie and N. Meltem Daysal).
- “Nature and nurture in the intergenerational transmission of mental health” (with Sonia Bhalotra, N. Meltem Daysal, and Jakob Søgaard).
- “Disability benefits and risky behavior” (with N. Meltem Daysal, Mikkel H. Pedersen, and Jonathan Zhang).
- “Stock market fluctuations and mental health” (with Alexander Schandlbauer and Daniel Rettl).
- “Health shocks and risk aversion” (with Alexander Schandlbauer and Daniel Rettl).

Comments and Policy Briefs

- 2023 “Medical treatments and social mobility” (with N. Meltem Daysal), *Samfundsøkonomen* 2023:2: 18–26.
- 2016 “Re: A recent study by economists on the impact of home births on infant outcomes confuses the debate on home birth” (with N. Meltem Daysal and Reyn van Ewijk), *BJOG: An International Journal of Obstetrics & Gynaecology* 123:10: 1713–1714.
- “Thuisbevalling risikanter in arm gezin” (with N. Meltem Daysal and Reyn van Ewijk), *Medisch Contact* 13: 16–18.
- 2014 “Reply to comment on ‘The effect of same-sex marriage laws on different-sex marriage: Evidence from the Netherlands’,” *Demography* 51:6: 2349–2350.
- 2011 “Banking sector stability, efficiency, and outreach in Kenya” (with Thorsten Beck, Robert Cull, Michael J. Fuchs, Jared Getenga, Peter K. Gatere, and John Randa), *Kenya: Policies for Prosperity (edited by Christopher Adam, Paul Collier, and Njuguna Ndung'u)* Oxford University Press: 2349–2350. Also available as World Bank Policy Research Working Paper No. 5442, October 2010.

Permanent Working Papers (RIP)

- 2016/11 “Heterogeneous effects of medical interventions on the health of low-risk newborns” (with N. Meltem Daysal and Reyn van Ewijk). An earlier version is available as IZA Discussion Paper No. 9810.
- 2013/12 “Returns to childbirth technologies: Evidence from preterm births” (with N. Meltem Daysal and Reyn van Ewijk). An earlier version is available as IZA Discussion Paper No. 7834.

Research Grants

- 2022–2025 The Danish Council for Independent Research | Social Sciences, “Employee health, risk aversion, and firm policies,” DKK 1.9 mil. (co-PI, PI: Alexander Schandlbauer).
- 2015–2019 The Danish Council for Independent Research | Social Sciences, “Breast cancer treatment and socioeconomic outcomes of treated women and their families,” DKK 4.8 mil. (co-PI, PI: N. Meltem Daysal).
- 2015–2018 The Danish Council for Independent Research | Social Sciences, “The impact of antidepressant use on socioeconomic outcomes of treated individuals and their families,” DKK 1.4 mil. (PI).

Awards and Fellowships

- 2009 Best Comparative Article Presented at an APPAM Research Conference in 2008 for the paper “The effect of same-sex marriage laws on different-sex marriage: Evidence from the Netherlands.”

Invited Seminars and Conference Presentations

2025	Vive.
2024	Center for Health and Wellbeing at Princeton University, NBER Summer Institute, RWI Essen.
2022	Rockwool Foundation, Health and Inequality Workshop at Copenhagen Business School, WOLFE Workshop at University of York.
2021	Essen Health Conference, International Institute of Public Finance, European Association of Labor Economists, ERMAS Econometrics and Applied Microeconomics seminar.
2019	Workshop on Applied Microeconomics at ISER/University of Essex.
2018	SOFI Stockholm, University of Mainz.
2017	iHEA (discussant).
2016	WZB Berlin, Health and Gender Workshop at the University of Essex.
2015	Concordia University, 2nd SDU Applied Microeconomics Workshop, Joint SFI-Lund Workshop on Health Economics, Copenhagen Education Network.
2014	Lund University, University of Hamburg, ASHEcon (discussant), European Workshop on Econometrics and Health Economics, Annual Health Economics Conference.
2013	Impaq International, Aarhus University, University of Southern Denmark, Canadian Economics Association, European Economic Association.
2012	Cornell University, ASHEcon (discussant).
2011	Concordia University, Tilburg University.
2010	McGill University, IZA/SOLE Transatlantic Meeting of Labor Economists, European Society for Population Economics, Paris School of Economics, University of Notre Dame.
2009	Université de Sherbrooke.
2008	Tinbergen Institute, Technical University of Delft, Population Association of America, Society of Labor Economists (poster), Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Southern Economic Association.

Research Visits

2024/ Jan–Jun	Departmental Guest, Center for Health and Wellbeing, Princeton University.
2020/Feb	University of California, Berkeley.
Fall 2011	Department of Econometrics and OR, Tilburg University.
Fall 2010	Department of Econometrics and OR, Tilburg University.

Referee

American Economic Review, AEJ: Economic Policy, Economic Journal, Journal of Economic Dynamics and Control, Journal of Health Economics, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Labor Economics, JPE Microeconomics, Demography, Applied Economics, Canadian Journal of Development Studies, Canadian Public Policy, China Economic Review, Danish Journal of Economics, Health Economics, Journal of Development Studies, Journal of Economic Surveys, Journal of Policy Analysis and Management, Journal of Population Economics, Labour Economics, Policy Studies Journal, Social Science & Medicine, World Development.

Teaching Experience

Undergraduate:

University of Southern Denmark: Labor Economics, Research Methods in Social Sciences, Statistics (Economics, Business Economics, and Engineering programs).

Université de Sherbrooke: Introduction to Econometrics, Cost-Benefit Analysis, Introduction to Microeconomics.

University of Maryland: Financial Markets and the Macroeconomy, Money and Banking, Intermediate Microeconomics.

Graduate:

University of Southern Denmark: Applied Econometrics, Demography and Economics, Topics in Econometrics – Big Data, Causation (European Doctoral School of Demography).

Université de Sherbrooke: Labor Economics, Econometrics I.

Other: Efficiency and Productivity Analysis Summer Programme (co-taught, University of Rome Tor Vergata)

- 2013 Dean's "honor roll" for teaching achievement (course evaluations above 3.7/4), Université de Sherbrooke: *Introduction to econometrics* (undergraduate) and *Labor economics* (graduate).
- 2012 Dean's "honor roll" for teaching achievement (course evaluations above 3.7/4), Université de Sherbrooke: *Introduction to econometrics* (undergraduate) and *Labor economics* (graduate).

Advising

Supervisor or secondary supervisor (University of Southern Denmark): Dieudonné Tamfutu Munsi (2024), Nis Vestergård Lydiksen (2021), Mikkel Hasse Pedersen (2019).

University of Southern Denmark: 8 Master's students, 10 Bachelor's students.

Université de Sherbrooke: 9 Master's students.

Committee member/opponent: Derek Asuman (Lund University, 2023), Hanna Mülhrad (University of Gothenburg, 2017), Mesbah Sharaf (Concordia University, 2012).

Conference and Workshop Organization

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| 2017/08 | Medical Interventions and Socioeconomic Outcomes Workshop, Odense, Denmark. |
| 2016/08 | 25th European Workshop on Econometrics and Health Economics, Nyborg, Denmark. |

Department Service

University of Southern Denmark

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| 2021–2022 | PhD Coordinator. |
| 2021 | Member of the assessment committee, Assistant professor position in economics and demography (Department of Business and Economics and CPop). |
| 2021 | Presentation of economics research to high school students at Kold College, Odense. |
| 2020–2022 | Member of the executive committee of the Business and Social Sciences unit of the Interdisciplinary Centre on Population Dynamics (<i>CPop-SAM</i>). |
| 2019–2022 | Department coordinator for the Scandinavian PhD Seminar Exchange program. |
| 2019–2022 | Co-organizer of the <i>Applied Economics</i> seminar series. |
| 2019–2022 | Member of the inter-departmental working group assessing the BA program in Law and Economics. |
| 2017 | Presentation of economics research as part of the Academy of Talented Youth. |
| 2016–2022 | Member of the job placement committee. |
| 2016 | Presentation of economics research as part of the Tietgen Talent program. |
| 2014–2022 | Faculty-member data manager (University of Southern Denmark). |
| 2015–2022 | Internal supervisor, Lecturer Training Programme. |
| 2014–2018 | Co-organizer of the <i>Health and Applied Microeconomics (COHERE)</i> seminar series. |
| 2014–2016 | Member of the recruiting committee. |

Université de Sherbrooke

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| 2012–2013 | Organizer of the departmental seminar series. |
| 2010–2013 | Member of the admissions committee for the MSc program. |
| 2009–2012 | Member of the recruiting committee. |